



The Grange Courier

Golden Days at Grangemouth!



Although our family's history and involvement with road transport can be traced back through four generations to 1892, this month marks the 50th anniversary since the founding of our current business of John Mitchell (Grangemouth Ltd.)

It was on the 11th May 1956 that the late John Mitchell set out in his second-hand Albion four wheeled lorry for his new firm's inaugural trip to Glasgow, which earned him the useful sum of £4 7s 9d! Since then our business has steadily expanded and developed, with next generation Catherine and Iain now steering our course, but

using the same core principles and values learned from their late parents over many years. Our main source of strength and success over the last half century has been all our staff, past and present. By acting as an effective team and delivering, often as not innovative and consistently excellent customer service to our clients, their commitment has been the core foundation upon which everything else is built. We would also like to thank all of our customers, who our world revolves around. We continue to strive every day to deliver a quality, world class service which you rightly deserve and expect from us.

To mark our 'golden' celebrations we have recently taken delivery of a special MAN tractor unit, pictured above left and right, which features a number of extra accessories and a specially designed livery. The truck will attend a number of functions and shows throughout the year to publicise our achievement. Here's to the next 50 years!



Scottish Fleet of the Year!



Industry competitions are a useful barometer to measure our progress within our sector and in the last seven years we have been honoured to collect two Scottish national awards and a United Kingdom wide, 'Haulier of the Year' award.'

Last November saw our MD; Iain Mitchell collect our latest prize; the 'Transport News; Scottish Fleet of the Year 2006' accolade at a ceremony in Glasgow's Moat House Hotel.

On accepting the Caithness Glass sculpted shield, Iain (pictured with award sponsor;

Richard Gibbs of BPW and compere Dougie Donnelly) said "This award is all about delivering the best possible customer service and the truly excellent, highly trained people we have in our team."

Photo- courtesy of Transport News.

Recent Arrivals

2006 is a busy year for our regular fleet replacement programme, with at least 20 new trucks planned to be delivered at regular intervals in the coming months. All our new vehicles this year will be supplied by MAN at Bellshill, in the shape of the Munich manufacturers 26.430 model and featuring the new XLX cab, which offers excellent levels of comfort and space to our drivers. Every truck will also feature the 'Tipmatic' automated transmission system and 'D20 common rail' series engine, which is currently one of the most reliable and fuel efficient power plants available. Another major reason for continuing to select this type of vehicle is the exceptional levels of back up and support we receive from all MAN'S staff right across the country. In the last 10 years we have purchased almost 150 trucks of all shapes and sizes from this supplier and we look forward to an ongoing productive working relationship with them.



A broolley good show down under!



Promotional items are used by most companies today, as a thank you to clients for their valued business and also to maximise the presence of their name and logos etc. At John Mitchell we have invested in a variety of these items over the years and it is always interesting to see them being put to good use all over the world.

Our friend; George Nichol is pictured with his John Mitchell golf umbrella, keeping dry at the spectacular location of Wai-O-Tapu, thermal wonderland in Rotorua, New Zealand.

Is this the farthest distance that one of our promotional items has travelled? Or do you know differently? - If you do please send us

your picture from any world destination, complete with John Mitchell item, and we'll feature it in our next Grange Courier.

Man of the match!

As part of our local community involvement and sponsorship programme, we support our geographically nearest football team; Falkirk, in their seasonal efforts in the Scottish Premier league.

On Saturday the 15th of April this year 'The Bairns', as our team is affectionately known, played a home match against Dunfermline Athletic, which was sponsored by John Mitchell.

Our guest at the event; Woody Spiers of Ineos, is pictured right, presenting Falkirk's Patrick Cregg with his coveted 'man of the match award.'



A model for a double success!



Corgi, the toy and collectables brand famous for making the great small and the small great, shares its 50th birthday this year with us. And what better way to celebrate this double golden jubilee, than with the production of a John Mitchell truck.

But rather than the Corgi model replicating a real John Mitchell truck, in this case we specially commissioned a 'big brother' version in imitation of the miniature!

Adrienne Fuller, Product Manager, Collectables at Corgi, said: "I thought it would be a really

nice fit to produce our new Mercedes-Benz Actros in John Mitchell colours for our anniversary collection but when I received the images of their truck I realised it was the mark 1 model. I didn't want to use 'artistic licence' but Iain Mitchell came up with the perfect solution by specially buying a top of the range, mark 2 truck- the same as our model!" Our MD; Iain said: "What better way to celebrate 50 years of John Mitchell and Corgi than with both trucks - we've even christened ours 'Grange Corgi'!"

The Mercedes-Benz Actros Megaspacer is a new tooling from Corgi in 2006 and this particular 1:50 scale truck, in our livery, is part of Corgi's very special anniversary range. The model comes in bespoke Corgi 50th packaging and includes a key ring featuring Corgi's 50th logo and John Mitchell's logo, a Corgi anniversary booklet and a numbered Limited Edition Certificate. Available from March, only 2,006 will be produced, RRP £99.99.

The Two Minute Interview

For this issue we feature our Yard Foreman; John Kemp who supervises the safe movement and loading of approximately 250 trailers every day in our 10 acre site. Let's see what lifts his interests!

Briefly describe your job - Foreman, supervising the yard, plant and warehouse operations.

What's the most enjoyable part of your work? - Teamwork

Where is your favourite place / holiday destination? - New York.

What are your hobbies and interests? - Football and Formula One.

What tape / CD are you listening to at the moment? - The Smiths.

What was the last film you saw at the cinema? - Blade Trinity



What's the best book you've read in the last 12 months? - George Best's story.

What's your favourite TV programme? - Anything on Sky Sports.

If you won £10 million on the lottery, what would you spend it on? - My Family and a private Box at Falkirk FC.

And finally, who would you most like to be stuck in a lift with? - Kylie Minogue.

Have we got (Company) news for you?

The last six months have been very busy for our company, with the usual pre Christmas rush and a very steady start to the New Year.

The current tensions in the Middle East have once again hit fuel prices hard, with diesel prices, at time of writing hovering just below the £1 a litre mark.

On a lighter note, our media profile has been fairly prominent recently with articles in the Road Haulage's journal 'Roadway' and Scotland's Transport News', each telling our story of the last 50 years. Our local newspaper; The Falkirk Herald picked up on the 50th anniversary Corgi Truck story at the beginning of May and several of the national daily newspapers followed up on the tale the next again week with comprehensive coverage of our special little and large trucks.

And finally, just to finish things off nicely - the latest edition of the aforementioned Transport News magazine, which was published on our actual anniversary date (11/5/06), featured a full page picture of our special 50 year truck on the front cover.



Rear View Mirror Special - 1956 & 1981



For this edition's regular glance into the past, we thought it would be appropriate to look at the year the company started and also our 'silver' anniversary, 25 years ago.

1956 was a year of very hard work for the new haulier; John Mitchell and his Albion 4 wheeled lorry. There were plenty cargoes to shift, from the local docks and the nationalised concern of British Road Services, who shared out loads. A local council house building boom in western Edinburgh also ensured that many tons of timber were moved to this area. The truck pictured, above left is another Albion, fleet no. 2, which we think started work towards the end of the first year of John Mitchell's business. The local lads standing proudly in front of it are Colin McMillan and Drew Farquhar.

Elsewhere in the world in 1956, Prince Rainier of Monaco married the beautiful film star; Grace Kelly, Egypt seized the Suez Canal and 4 months later the Allied Forces took it back, all

of which caused panic at the pumps, with petrol rationing brought in until May the following year.

By 1981 the distinctive maroon and grey livery of John Mitchell now adorned the sides of around 22 trucks and in the September of this year, a young traffic office administration assistant by the name of Catherine Mitchell, married local lad Robert Weir. The fleet operated from a then, slightly smaller 3 acre site at our Earls Road Industrial Estate base, with maximum weight 32 ton artics covering the length and breadth of the United Kingdom. The ERF 'B' series tractor unit, pictured right, was one of the best British made trucks available then and the reliability and fuel consumption of its Gardner engine was then yet unmatched by continental manufacturers.

The start of the eighties was a bad year for assassination attempts with US president; Ronald Regan and Pope John Paul II, thankfully making lucky recoveries from encounters with deranged gunmen.

As with 1956, the world watched another royal wedding, this time round with His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales and The Lady Diana Spencer.



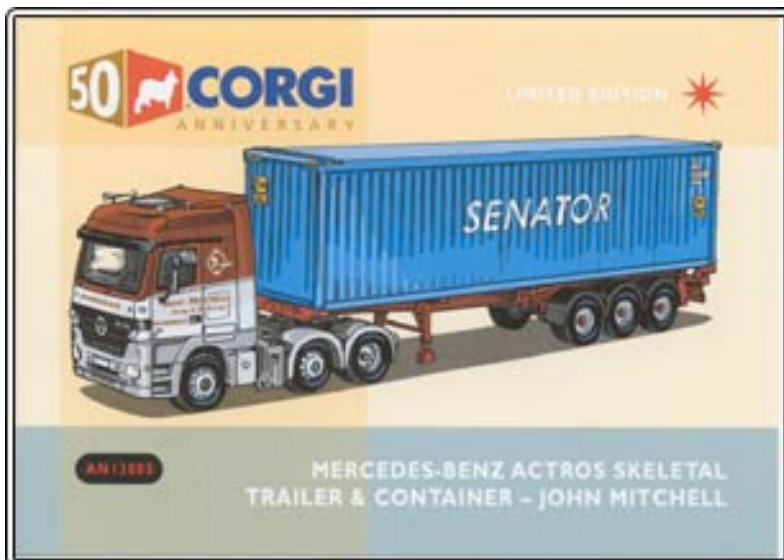
The Competition

This time round we're offering our readers the chance to win the very special, limited edition model which celebrates John Mitchell and Corgi's 50th anniversaries and also £50 worth of Next vouchers.

The Question: What country was the John Mitchell umbrella pictured in? If you have read your Grange Courier carefully, you should know the answer!

Please e-mail your answer to newsdesk@johnmitchell.co.uk before September 30th.

The winner will be drawn at random from the correct entries and the result will be announced in newsletter number 11.



Congratulations to Stuart Fox of March, Cambs, whose winning email was pulled from the mail sack for the MAN holdall and branded goodies competition in newsletter no. 9. The correct answer was of course, 'Our 50th anniversary!'

Thanks to all who entered the competition and for those who have not won yet, keep trying! Next time it could be you!

John Mitchell Merchandise

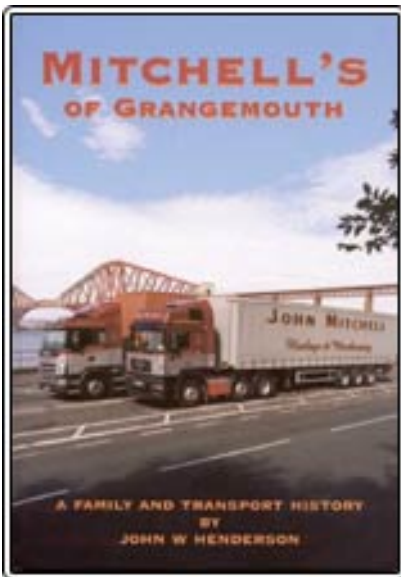
We are pleased to offer the following official company products for sale; all prices include postage and packing. If you require any further information on these goods, please contact Lyn Sharpe at our office (tel. 01324 496309).

Painting



We have a small number of prints of Alan Spillett's classic painting available for sale. These Giclee fine art prints are produced to a very high standard and the image size is 10" x 14" with surrounding border. The cost per print is £40. Please allow six weeks for delivery and note that cheques sent will not be cashed until 1 week prior to despatch.

Book



A book on our family firm was first published in November 2000. "Mitchells of Grangemouth", a family and transport history, is a 48-page well illustrated history of the Mitchell family's carting, haulage and local involvement in the area's heritage from 1892 right up to present day. The cost of this publication is £12.

Send your orders to: John Mitchell Haulage and Warehousing, Earls Road Industrial Estate, Grangemouth. FK3 8XA. Please allow 28 days delivery for the Book and Model.

Thank you for reading the Grange Courier, if you have a story or picture that you think would be suitable for our magazine, please mail us at newsdesk@johnmitchell.co.uk
